



Administrative and Customer Services Division

Data Developments

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
U.S. Department of Commerce
Washington, DC 20233

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*Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP)
1996 Panel, Wave 1 Topical Module Microdata File*

*[machine-readable data file] / conducted by the U.S. Bureau of the
Census. _Washington: The Bureau [producer and distributor], 1999.*

Type of File:

Microdata; unit of observation is an individual.

Universe Description:

The universe is the resident population of the United States, excluding persons living in institutions and military barracks.

Subject-Matter Description:

The file contains data primarily from the topical module portion of the questionnaire. However, for purposes of matching persons to the core file, which was released separately, the beginning of the file contains identifying information as well as some basic demographic and social characteristics that are also contained in the core file. The identifying information includes sample unit, household address, and entry address identification. Demographic and social characteristics include age, sex, race (White; Black; American Indian, Eskimo, and Aleut; Asian or Pacific Islander), ethnic origin (34 categories including 9 Spanish origin categories), marital status, and education. Data in this topical module file include reciprocity history and employment history.

The sample consists of 4 rotation groups, each interviewed in a different month from April 1996 to July 1996. For each group the reference period for reporting labor force activity and income is the four calendar months preceding the interview month.

SIPP is a longitudinal survey where each sampled household and each descendent household is reinterviewed at 4-month intervals for 12 interviews or "waves." This file contains the results of the **first** interview. Unique codes are included on each record to allow linking together the same persons from the preceding and subsequent waves.

Geographic Coverage:

United States. Codes are included for 45 individual States and the District of Columbia, **although the sample was not designed to produce State estimates**. Areas in the SIPP sample in five States are identified in two groups for confidentiality reasons. The file identifies a subsample of metropolitan residents, along with codes for selected metropolitan statistical areas (MSA's) and consolidated metropolitan statistical areas (CMSA's).

Technical Description:

File Structure: Rectangular. Each logical record for a sampled person includes information on the household and family of which the person was a part during each month of the reference period, as well as characteristics of the person.

File Size: 95,315 logical records; 840 character logical record length.

File Sort Sequence of Sample Units: Sampling unit identification number by entry address ID and person number within sampling unit.

Reference Materials:

Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) 1996 Panel, Wave 1 Topical Module Microdata File Technical Documentation. The documentation includes this abstract, the data dictionary, an index to the data dictionary, relevant code lists, questionnaire facsimiles, and general information on SIPP.

Survey of Income and Program Participation Users' Guide. *The Users' Guide* contains a general overview of the file as well as chapters on survey design and content, structure and use of cross-sectional files, linking waves and reliability of the data. Additional copies are available from Marketing Services Office, Customer Services Center, Bureau of the Census, Washington, DC 20233.

Related Printed Reports:

Related printed reports include working papers, compilations of papers presented at annual meetings of the American Statistical Association, articles appearing in the *Journal of Economic and Social Measurement*, and reports in the P-70 series of the Current Population Reports.

Related Machine-Readable Data Files:

SIPP files from all Waves of the 1984 through 1993 Panels, and 1996 Panel, Waves 1 and 2 are available from Customer Services Center, Marketing Services Office, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233. Some files (1990 - 1993) may be downloaded in ASCII from the Data Extraction System (DES) SURVEY-ON-CALL at <http://www.census.gov/DES/www/welcome.html> Files (1996 forward) may be downloaded from the Federal Electronic Research and Review Extraction Tool (FERRET) at <http://www.ferret.bls.census.gov/cgi-bin/ferret>

File Availability:

Files are available on computer tape at 6250 bpi, ASCII or EBCDIC, and standard ANSI labeling on CD-R (compact disc-readable). The file also may be made available on IBM 3480 compatible tape cartridge. A machine-readable data dictionary is provided at the end of each file. This dictionary may be purchased separately. Pricing information is available from Customer Services (301) 457-4100 (order form attached). This file also may be downloaded from the Federal Electronic Research and Review Extraction Tool (FERRET) at *<http://www.ferret.bls.census.gov/cgi-bin/ferret>*